



## Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

*Working for health care justice*

December 2009

President-Elect Barack Obama  
Executive Office of the President  
451 6th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-Elect Obama:

As you heard directly from voters during the election season, families across Ohio are increasingly anxious about health care and are eager to see the new administration and Congress keep their pledges to enact reforms that will ensure that every American has access to affordable and stable health insurance coverage and high-quality health care.

With rising premiums far out-pacing wages, everyone is feeling the effects. Family premiums for health coverage have increased 30 percent since 2001, while income has increased just three percent. Businesses that offer health insurance see it in their bottom lines, and family budgets are being strained by rising out-of-pocket costs. For the small businesses that can't offer coverage and individuals who do not have coverage, the possibilities of obtaining coverage grow ever dimmer.

The recent downturn in the economy has compounded these problems. Chief among people's economic worries are the health and well-being of their families. They fear not being able to take their children to the doctor or obtain the medications they need to stay healthy and take care of their loved ones.

Fixing the economy and reforming our health care system must be inextricably linked. Polling data collected prior to the election asked likely voters to rank policy ideas based on how effective they would be at improving the current economic situation, and the top two answers were reducing health care costs and providing health care to all Americans.

As we move into a new presidential administration and Congress, our leaders must work together to find common-ground policies to provide coverage to all Americans.



Letter to President-Elect Obama  
Page 2

We, therefore, urge President-elect Obama to make comprehensive health reform the top domestic priority in his administration and the one that he tackles first. Ohio's children, businesses, seniors, people with disabilities and families are counting on action and his leadership.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society (Ohio)  
AXIS Center for Public Awareness  
CareSource  
Catholic Conference of Ohio, Department of Social Concerns  
Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio  
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing of Ohio  
Contact Center  
District Three, Ohio Nurses Association  
May Dugan Multi-Service Center and  
Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Inc  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Neighborhood Family Practice  
Ohio Council of Churches  
Ohio Association of Area Aging Agencies  
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers  
Ohio Association of Free Clinics  
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks  
Ohio Citizen Advocates for Chemical Dependency Prevention & Treatment  
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council  
Ohio Empowerment Coalition  
Ohio Jewish Communities  
Ohio Nurses Association  
Ohio Olmstead Task Force  
Ohio Psychological Association  
Ohio Society for Respiratory Care  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
Results (Columbus)  
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice  
UHCAN Ohio  
United Clevelanders Against Poverty  
We Are the Uninsured  
Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry